

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

SOME NEW OR NOTEWORTHY LOUISIANA
PLANTS.*

BY CHARLES LOUIS POLLARD AND CARLETON R. BALL.

The species described below were collected by Mr. Ball in the vicinity of Alexandria, Louisiana, during the summer of 1899. A report on the entire collection is in preparation by Mr. Ball, who has kindly afforded me an opportunity of examining with him the more interesting portions of his material.

C. L. P.

Baptisia Texana (Holzinger), n. comb.

Baptisia lanceolata texana Holzinger, Contr. U. S. Nat. Herb. 1:286. Oct. 31, 1893.

Plant erect, 5-6 dm. high, the stems freely branching, pubescent; leaves subcoriaceous, nearly sessile, mostly shorter than the internodes; leaflets oblong or obovate, very obtuse at apex, cuneate at base, slightly petiolulate, 3-4 cm. long, both surfaces strongly reticulate veined and sprinkled with scattered hairs; flowers solitary in the upper axils, and also forming short terminal racemes, yellow, 2 cm. long; calyx hirsute, with 5 short teeth; corolla resembling that of *B. lanceolata*; legume ovoid, stipitate, villous, 1-1½ cm. long, tipped with the elongated persistent style; seeds few, ovoid, 3-4 mm. long.

Mr. Holzinger based his variety on Nealley's No. 73, from Texas, the type being in the U. S. National Herbarium. In the course of his description he remarks "The pubescence, including the ovary, the sessile leaves, and the nearly sessile solitary flowers in the axils of the upper leaves of the flowering branches, which are terminated by few-flowered

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racemes, associate this plant closely with *Baptisia lanceolata*". A very superficial examination of the characters involved would have convinced Mr. Holzinger that he was in error, even if he had chosen to regard the principles of geographic distribution as of no consequence. *Baptisia lanceolata* is a plant of the southeastern Atlantic coast from South Carolina to Florida, and is not known from the Gulf states. Its leaves are by no means sessile, but distinctly petiolate, the petioles in many cases a centimeter or more in length, while the leaflets, instead of being short and obovate as in *B. Texana*, are elongated, and unmistakably lanceolate in outline. The stems, moreover are glabrous in *lanceolata*. The nearest ally of *B. Texana* is probably *B. laevicaulis*, a species which is glabrous throughout, however, even to the pod. Excellent fruiting specimens were obtained by Mr. Ball near Alexandria, La., June 3, 1899 (No. 546), growing on hillsides under scrub oaks.

Stylosanthes biflora hispidissima (Michx), n. comb.

Stylosanthes hispida var. *b. hispidissima* Michx., Fl. Bor. Am. 1:75, 1803.

This form differs from the type in the long hirsute pubescence with which the stem and often the foliage is clothed. Michaux's characterization of the variety as "universe hispidissima" leaves little doubt as to its identity. The plant is more prostrate in habit and diffusely branched than the ordinary form of *S. biflora*. Mr. Ball's specimens were collected at Alexandria, La., June 10, 1899 (No. 621).

Prunella vulgaris scaberrima n. var.

Stems purple; herbage and inflorescence densely hispid and scabrous-pubescent with white hairs; otherwise similar to *P. vulgaris*.

Type in U. S. National Herbarium, collected by Mr. Ball at Alexandria, La., June 9, 1899 (No. 607). The plant is there common in dry soil.

Physalis rigida n. sp.

Perennial, from a thick root; stems tufted, erect, rigid, sulcate, more or less branching, 3-3½ dm. high, hispid-pubescent with flat hairs, particularly above; leaves firm, ovate-lanceolate, obscurely repand-dentate, acute at apex, tapering to base, densely pubescent when young, scabrous above when mature, 4-6 cm. wide; petioles slender, 1½-4 cm long; flowers small, 1-1½ cm. broad, on slender hispid-pubescent pedicels; flowering calyx densely pubescent, its lobes ovate-triangular, acute; limb of corolla yellow, the throat dark purple; fruiting calyx nearly smooth, ovoid, obscurely 10-ribbed, 2½-3 cm. long, truncate or somewhat depressed at base; pedicel reflexed, hispid-pubescent, about 2 cm. long.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, collected at Alexandria, La., on a dry railroad embankment May 23, 1899 by Mr. Ball (No. 431). No. 435, a fruiting specimen, is to be referred here. The plants were sub-

mitted to Dr. P. A. Rydberg for determination, who writes as follows concerning them:

“The two specimens of *Physalis* sent me belong to an undescribed species. It is nearest related to *P. virginiana intermedia* Rydberg. * * The new species differs from *intermedia* in the thicker and broader leaves, the fruiting calyx, which is angled and more rounded at the base, and in the lack of viscid pubescence. It may also be compared with *P. longifolia*, but has much shorter and broader leaves and is more puberulent. I would be glad to have you describe it as I have very little time and pay no attention to any other botany at present except the flora of the Rocky Mountain region.”